



TOUCH



Newsletter by employees,
for employees of the
American Printing House
for the Blind, Inc.

Mystery in the Migel

Justin Gardner, Special Collections Librarian,
Resource Services

The model of the blind detective is thought to have begun in 1913 with **Ernest Bramah Smith's** character **Max Carrados**. Smith's stories were often published alongside **Arthur Conan Doyle** and **H.G. Wells** in literary magazines. His Max Carrados character used heightened sensory perception to gather information that was overlooked by the sighted.

In his first appearance, *The Coin of Dionysius*, Carrados was able to determine the authenticity of a rare coin through tactile inspection. E.B. Smith seemingly thought it necessary to make Carrados dependent on money from a large inheritance and the assistance of a "faithful manservant" to function as a detective. The author even included "incredible-but-true exploits of the blind" in his books in what may have been an attempt to prove that the abilities of his detective were believable.

Baynard Kendrick was the first American to volunteer for the Canadian Army during the First World War. While serving overseas, Kendrick was visiting a wounded comrade in St. Dunstan's Home in London. He was awed by a blinded veteran who was able to completely deduce Kendrick's service history



Cover of *The Specimen Case* by **Ernest Bramah Smith**.

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**AMERICAN
PRINTING
HOUSE**

just by feeling all of the insignia on his uniform. The impression that soldier made eventually resulted in Kendrick's blind detective character, **Captain Duncan Maclain**. Captain Maclain was a hard-boiled detective typical of the 1940s. He was a WWI veteran who would "shoot to kill" by sound. But he was also sensitive to the slightest inflection in someone's voice and was a master chess player. Maclain battled Nazi espionage with his dogs **Schnucke** and **Dreist**, who were named in real life by **Jack Humphries** of the Seeing

Eye Home. Maclain starred in 14 novels, several radio dramas, and two movies. Because of the extensive research Kendrick conducted when he created Captain Maclain, the U.S. Army asked Kendrick to work with the rehabilitation of veterans who were blinded during WWII. That experience with veterans was the basis for his novel *Lights Out*, later adapted for the film *Bright Victory*.




The covers of *The Odor of Violets* and *Blind Man's Bluff* by Baynard Kendrick.



18th century engraving of **Sir John Fielding**.

More than 80 years after Max Carrados first exemplified the blind detective, author **Bruce Cook Alexander** began writing his **Sir John Fielding** series. Set in 18th century England, the series is unique in that its detective is based upon a real person. Sir John Fielding, often called "The Blind Beak," was a magistrate and social reformer who was known for being able to identify thousands of criminals by voice. Fielding helped found London's first professional police and detective force, and developed the first system to organize and distribute criminal records. From judicial corruption to horse racing, each novel brings to life a different aspect of English society of the late 1700s. While the series is loosely inspired by the historical Sir John Fielding, the writing quality and the historical accuracy of the books is well agreed upon.

The APH Migel Collection holds books by all three authors, and several books by Ernest Bramah Smith and Baynard Kendrick have been digitized for Internet Archive. 

TPR Taking Trophies

Arlette Kagaba, Summer Intern, Government & Community Affairs

On June 12th, 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman's Awards were held. Acknowledged products at the event set the gold standard for technological progression. The **Orbit Reader 20** won an award for Advancement in Accessibility. The device, which was developed by Technical Product Research (TPR) and Orbit Research, was recognized for its affordability and its impressive ability to arrange braille pins.



“Under the direction of **Larry Skutchan** (TPR), we were able to write the manual, adjust the product's specs, and facilitate 103 evaluations during field testing that later reached international levels,” said Project Leader **Ken Perry** (TPR). From Technical and Manufacturing Research to Customer Service, this product was worked on by numerous departments for three years before being released in summer 2017.

TPR also had the pleasure of winning the **Robert S. Bray** Award for **Nearby Explorer's** indoor feature at the American Council of the Blind (ACB) conference in early July.



According to Project Leader **Keith Creasy**, this monumental milestone was the result of a big team effort, “Originally the Nearby Explorer project was mostly done by **Rob Meredith**, **Mark Klarer**, and **Tim Allen**. When we began the Indoor Explorer project we brought several more on board including myself, **Joe Wegner**, and **John Karr** as programmers. **Jeremiah Rose**, **Lemuel Mason**, and **Mark Rohret** were responsible for mapping and installing beacons.” Congrats to everyone involved in the project! 🌐



150th Annual Meeting
October 4-6, 2018
Hyatt Regency • Louisville, KY

APH President **Craig Meador** would like to invite you to attend Annual Meeting 2018! Learn more about APH's products and services, hear conversations on fascinating topics, enjoy delicious food, and meet like-minded individuals from all over the US. If you would like to attend, please speak with your supervisor for more information.

On Top of the World

Lauren Hicks, *Internal Communications Coordinator, Government & Community Affairs*

Theresa Conkin (Studio) just reached a high point in her life – literally. This past summer, she climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. The climb took a little over a week, but the entire journey started last September when she began training with a program called Climb 2 Cure.

With Climb 2 Cure individuals can raise money for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in exchange for training towards an epic adventure. “When I started training, I had never hiked before. My favorite place to go was Jefferson Memorial Forest because they have so many different trails and many with a higher difficulty,” Theresa said.

The training for the climb was intense. Every weekend she would take a long hike, starting at four hours in length, and by the end reaching eight hours. She also had to walk an hour the day before and the day after the long hike to acclimate her body to traveling for long periods of time. There was also a lot of weight lifting, core training, stretching, and cardio.

The adventuring party included 11 individuals from all over the U.S. and a crew of 45 porters who carried the food, tents, sleeping bags, extra clothes and other supplies. Each of the American hikers were responsible for carrying a daypack filled with water, snacks, and rain gear. “I wasn’t expecting it to be as hard as it was,” Theresa admitted, “It was the hardest thing I’ve ever done. Everybody had a different difficulty but no one ever gave up. That’s what was amazing to me. Everyone had an iron will.”

The lack of oxygen and physical exhaustion were challenges, but for Theresa the biggest obstacle was the freezing temperatures. “It couldn’t have been more than zero degrees. I had on two pairs of gloves, three pairs of socks, hand warmers, but nothing was going to heat up my extremities.”

Despite the challenges, there were amazing moments as well. “The Tanzanians have an expression, ‘pole, pole.’ It means ‘slow, slow,’ and this was used in everything we did. It really made me focus on being in the present. You never do that in your real life. I didn’t look in the mirror for eight days! It was nice to unplug from everything.”

Although she has Mt. Kilimanjaro under her belt, Theresa isn’t sure if she’s ready to climb another mountain, “It’s kind of like having a kid. After you have one, you say ‘I’m not doing that again,’ but give me a year and I’ll think about it.” 🏔️



Theresa Conkin at the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

What Does That Even Mean?

A Guide to Understanding the New Generation's Slang

Arlette Kagaba, Summer Intern, Government & Community Affairs

Deciphering a message, whether verbal or written, from a member of another generation can be difficult at times. With this article as your guide, you can learn the meaning of these words – and maybe even use them yourself. Being exposed to this terminology will help start conversations among different age groups. Through these explanations, you'll find some words have the same meaning as the ones you used when you were the same age. This not only shows just how transformative language is, but also how it keeps the same general idea. Therefore, I have comprised a list of commonly used words by 19-year-old people like myself. In order to examine them, I have put them into three categories: Identifying words, descriptions, and emotions.

Identifying Words

- Tea – refers to gossip or something unknown to the person it is being said to. Example: “I heard Mary had tea about Roger’s trip to Mexico.”
- Receipts – hard evidence (text messages, emails, etc.) to support that the tea you have given is authentic. Example: “Mary, do you have receipts?”



Descriptions

- Basic – someone or something that does not deviate from the ‘norm’. Example: “She is always getting Starbucks coffee and wearing Uggs boots; she is so basic.”
- Extra – refers to a person who is consistently overzealous or does more than they should. Example: “Bob exploded into laughter when his boss told a subpar joke; he is extra.”



Emotions

- Pressed – deeply bothered by something that has occurred. Example: “Susie was pressed because she was the only person left off an email informing everyone about donuts in the breakroom.”
- Salty – along the same line as pressed but does a better job at detailing the feeling of being bothered by shame and/or embarrassment. Example: “I don’t even like basketball.” “You’re just salty because you lost.”



As a Communication major, I’ve learned languages have been altered throughout history to give new meanings to preexisting words as well as new words to preexisting meanings. As you can see, my generation is no exception. 📺

Dear Homer:

Answering Accessibility Questions



Dear Homer,

I saw a coworker walking with his guide dog and I could tell he was lost. He would walk one way and then another, and then stop and turn, and so on. The problem was, I didn't know his name! I wasn't sure if I should grab him or just say "hey" but I wanted to help. Luckily while I was debating the merits of each possibility, somebody else came by and asked him if he needed help. Unfortunately, the two knew each other so well that his name was never mentioned! Anyway, I'm wondering, how should I have reached out? Is grabbing someone's hand okay?

Sincerely, Helping Hand

Dear Helping Hand,

Glad you asked! I would generally advise against grabbing or touching anyone unless you have their expressed permission or it is necessary to prevent an accident or injury. I think people want permission to be helpful to others and to know that it is okay to offer. Well, I give



you my permission to offer help to others! Sometimes they may not want it and sometimes they may even be offended, but overall you should be fine with a policy of helping folks when it looks like they might need it or want it. If you don't know their name, just walk up to them and say something like, "Hey, can I help you? Looks like you might be lost." or "Can I help you find something?" or even "How's it going?" Something open like that may be all they need to fill you in on where they are going and what they're doing.

Sincerely, Homer

Dear Homer,

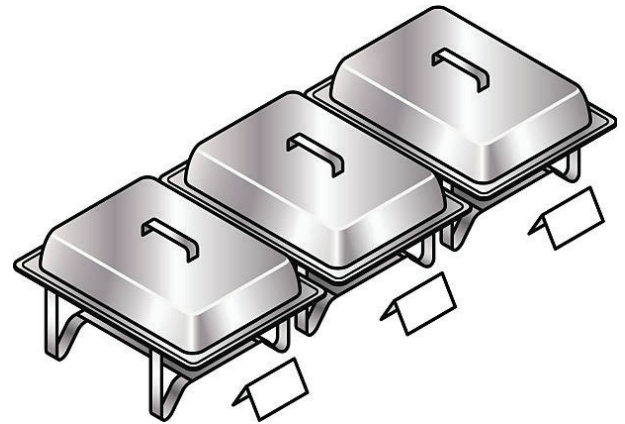
As Annual Meeting approaches, a recurring nightmare has returned to me: buffets! How do I help someone get food while getting food for myself? Please help.

Sincerely, In Line On Time

Dear In Line,

This is a doozy! There's a lot we can do as an organization here and it's something we'll need to discuss. Buffets present unique accessibility challenges but they're also a cost-effective way to feed large groups of people, so they're not going away any time soon. Since the set up varies from event to event, it can be difficult for folks that are blind to accustom themselves to the layout, so some assistance may be necessary.

I would suggest that the ideal scenario is that you ask the person you're assisting to have a free hand, so no cane or dog. This will allow them to hold their own plate and then you can serve them as you are serving yourself. If that's not possible, maybe get help from other folks in line. Maybe another person could hold two plates, their own and the person's you're helping, and then you hold your own plate in the arm you're using for guiding while serving with your free hand. The main thing is you do what is most comfortable for you and the person you're helping. No solution is perfect and all require some tact and grace but the folks in line behind you will understand so take your time, get what you want, and be careful not to spill!



Sincerely, Homer

Do you have a question for Homer? Send your questions to accessibility@aph.org and be sure to put "Dear Homer" in the subject line! 🗣️

"In It To Win It" Weight Loss Winner



Photo of **Joe Wegner**.

Congratulations to **Joe Wegner** (Technology Product Research) for being our Spring 2018 "In It To Win It" Winner. From January to June, Joe lost 38 lbs. How did Joe's journey begin? "Over the past 2 years, my weight and blood pressure have both been high. I knew I had to lose some weight and it wasn't long after that the In It to Win It session started up," said Joe.

When asked how he did it, Joe said, "I started coming into work early, walking first a half hour every morning, then increasing the time. Some days I'm fast. Some day's I'm slow. But I'm walking. I've also adjusted what I've been eating. Instead of filling my plate, I take reasonable servings. I really don't go too extreme, which for me is the key. I'm eating the same food, just not as much of it." 🗣️



Joe Wegner with "In It To Win It" team members, **Tonia Peters** (Transcription), **Denise Snow** (Technical Product Research), and **Julie Chapman** (Finance).

Featured Employee: Patrick White

Arlette Kagaba, Summer Intern, Government & Community Affairs

Patrick White (Technical and Manufacturing Research) was originally born in Cincinnati, moved to Covington when he was four, and finally relocated to Louisville when he was eight years old.

He and his wife, Jessica, have two children: Annabelle and Sullivan. He holds both a Bachelor's of Arts in Art Studio with an emphasis in sculpture from the University of Kentucky as well as a Master's of Arts from Moorehead University in Art Studio.

Patrick has worked at APH for almost three years. He works with tactile graphics which can either be completed through a hands-on process or with a computer. He prides himself in being able to work well under pressure. He believes that you shouldn't let fear hold you back, "Even if you're afraid, do it anyway. You either sink or swim."

The thing he likes most about working at APH is the fact that we provide for others and make their lives easier.

Frank Hayden (Director of Technical and Manufacturing Research) describes Patrick White as an artist and a skilled craftsman.

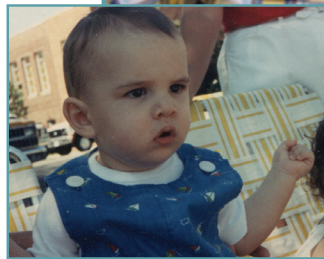
"Patrick has a unique skill set. He is as comfortable and adept working in the virtual world of 3D Computer-aided Design and 3D printing as he is working with his hands and building traditional APH tooling. He is also a good problem solver and has offered some very original solutions to problems if we run in to a bump in the road during a product's development. He is a pleasure to work with and is a very valuable addition to the department."

His friends know he is a huge Kentucky Wildcats fan for both football and basketball.

Patrick White wears an optical visor.

He also has a strong affiliation with the art community. "I have enjoyed art since I was a child," Patrick said. In fact, he was a participant in the Governor's Scholars Art Program as a high school student.

In his free time, he likes to make sculptures and paint. He is currently commissioned with a local cemetery here in Louisville making headstones. Also, if you are ever on Bardstown Road, look out for the giant, pair-of-glasses sculpture that he created. 🕶️



Congratulations to **Jody Bachmann** (Finance), **Brian Rodgers** (Technical & Manufacturing Research), and **Jehri Cummins** (Large Type) for correctly guessing Patrick's identity!

NEXT ISSUE

APH Featured Employee

Who is this? Some “helpful” clues...

- This person has worked here for three years.
- She has two adult sons.
- Her mom retired from APH.
- She has two favorite NFL teams.
- **Kid Rock** is her favorite entertainer.



Be the first to call Lauren Hicks, ext. 457, if you know who this is.



Roena Preston (Kyle's daughter) watches an elephant eat hay.

“The African elephant is pregnant!
So don't sit there like an eggplant.
A zoo membership is a year long.
Invest in one now, and you'll belong
to an institution deserving of praise
full of Wow!'s Whoa!'s and No Way!'s
on the day when a pachyderm baby
first sees if it's sunny or rainy.
The Preston-DeJutes love to visit.
Every day isn't too often, is it?!?”

—**Kyle DeJute**, Braille Improvement



BULLETIN BOARD

Welcome New Employees!



Brad Belviy
(Customer Service)



Tiffany Cook
(Large Type)



Juan Dillard
(Large Type)



Alyssa Disney
(Computer Technology Services)



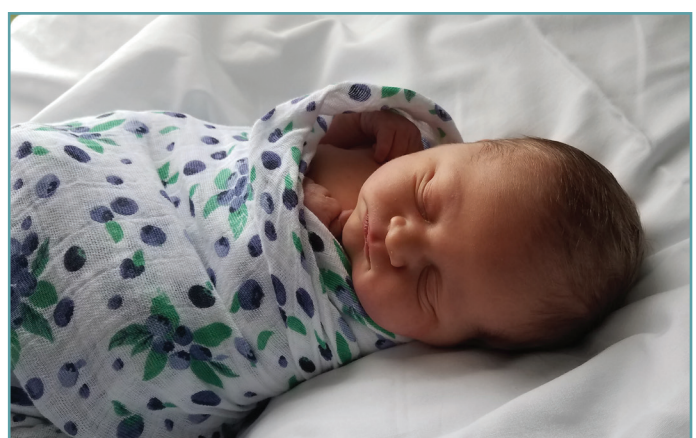
Lisa Echsner
(Development)



Justine Taylor
(Educational Research)



Jonathan Wahl's (Marketing & Sales) baby daughter, **Charlotte Grace** joined the family on July 19th at 1:28am! Big sister **Nora** loves her new sister, who she calls "Char Char."



Maggie Davis (Studio) would like to announce the birth of her son, **Soren Michael Davis**. "He was born on May 24 and my husband **Travis** and I are pretty much smitten," says Maggie.



Allison Scheinost (center) (Government & Community Affairs) enjoyed Oldham County Day with her sons **Kael** and **Kai**. They are posed here with people dressed in period costumes.



What a catch! **Scott Smith** (Transcription) landed a huge, 40lb catfish while fishing this summer.



This past July, **Jessica Minneci** (I) (Marketing & Sales Intern) went with her parents, brother, and sister to the Grand Old Opry.



Susan Sullivan (r) (Educational Research) went on an Alaskan adventure this summer with her boyfriend, **Dan O'Brien**.

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To change your distribution method, please contact **Allison Scheinost** at ascheinost@aph.org or 502-899-2356. Print, braille, and electronic versions are available.

UPCOMING MUSEUM EVENTS

Coping with Vision Loss

Saturday, September 29, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Free, make reservations by September 28.

People new to vision loss must deal with the impact of diagnosis, learn about their eye condition, reconsider self-concepts, address a host of practical issues, and cope with a myriad of emotions. Join our panel of experts to help tackle the tough questions. Best for adults and older children.

Halloween Mask Making

Saturday, October 20, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Free, make reservations by October 19.

Masks have been a part of many cultures throughout history. Sighted people tend to depend on the visual for their effects, but textures and shapes can convey emotions as well. Museum staff will guide participants of all ages and abilities as they make scary or friendly Halloween masks and headdresses using tactile materials. Best for adults and children ages 6 and up.

Call 502-899-2213 or email kcarpenter@aph.org to register. For a complete calendar of events, check the website: <http://www.aph.org/museum/programs/saturday-fun/>



IN TOUCH

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